Vol. III. Numb. 2.

THE OBSERVATOR.

What People talk of the Obſervator. *A further Diſcourſe about* Knaves. *Another Letter on that Subject. What Religion are the* Knaves *of? Are they Churchmen or Diſſenters? Of the* Country-man's *Doctor, and Juſtice of Peace.*

From **Saturday** March the 25th, to **Wednesday** March the 29th, 1704.

Country-m. WELL Maſter *Obſervator*, I have been at *London*, and had a deal of Talk about you there.

Obſ. Prithee, what do they ſay now? No good I ſuppoſe.

Country-m. Not too much of that, you may be ure; for I don't find much *Good Nature* in the Vorld, eſpecially in that great huge City.

Obſ. Well, what do they ſay? Prithee let us ave it.

Country-m Why, they ſay if you go on, you'll ave all the *Roguery* and *Knavery* of this Age, ſent o you in Letters, and ſo we ſhall Expoſe our ſelves o all the World.

Obſ. What do you mean by that? Expoſe our elves! Than you reckon to bring your ſelf and me in to be ſure; they don't think we'll tell our own Faults, do they?

Country-m. Why, you are ſo Captious: No, no, the World our ſelves means, all the Nation.

Obſ. Well, if they mean in a *National Capacity*, I don't know but that may be true; and we may deſerve it too.

Country-m. They ſay there is not a *Knave* in any Office in the Nation, but you'll have Letters of it quickly.

Obſ. I hope if they do, they'll pay the *Poſtage*, or we ſhall be all undone; I won't pay for the Letters at a Penny a piece, for a Hundred Pounds a Year.

Country-m. Well, you'll have it ſo, all will be told, all the *Villany* of the Town and Country will come out.

Obſ. Prithee, how long may you and I Live?

Country-m. Nay, who knows that?

Obſ. Well but Gueſs.

Country-m. Why, I am an Old Fellow, and in Twenty Years ſhall be good for nothing, but you may live this Forty Years, if you don't happen to be Hang'd before that, for telling the Truth, as I verily believe you will.

Obſ. Well, and prithee what's Forty Years to tell all the *Roguery* and *Villany* of this Age? I tell thee, if it was all Wrote down, and now in Print, it would make ſuch a Crowd of Books, the *Bodleian Library*, would be a *Fool* to it; a Man could not Read it over in twice Forty Years.

Country-m. You are Mad ſure, I believe you have got a Bottle of my *October* in your Head, what is it you talk of?

Obſ. Prithee, didſt ever Read the Bible?

Country-m. May be I have, may be I han't; but I believe I Read more in't than you do; why what is that to the purpoſe?

Obſ. Prithee, Read what's ſaid of *our Saviours Miracles and mighty Works:* I think it very Applicable to the preſent purpoſe. *John* 21. 25. *And there are alſo many other things that* Jeſus *did, the which if they ſhould be Written every one, I ſuppoſe that even the World it ſelf, could not contain the Books that ſhould be Written.*

Country-m. Well, you maze me; why than never go about it.

Obſ. Yes, yes, now and then a *Specimen*, here and there a Capital *Villain* may be be neceſſary to let the reſt know they are not ſafe, and that if they do Commit any *Rogueries*, they ſhall be Detected and Expos'd, it will make them Cautious.

Country-m. What does that Amount to? It only ſerves to make them Cunning and Wary, and ſo in Time you may do us an Injury, make the *Rogues* ſhy, and keep 'em from the *Gallows*.

Obſ. Ay, with all my Heart; the more afraid they are of Hanging the better, the leſs *Villanies* they'll Commit.

Country-m. I don't know that; don't you remember the Story you told me of the Old D. of *B——m.*

Obſ. What, about the *Whoring-Bill?*

Country-m. Ay, Ay, pray tell it over again, you can tell it better than I.

Obſ. Why, there was a Bill brought into the Houſe to Puniſh *Adultery* with Death; and the Duke Objected againſt the Title of the Bill, the Title run thus, *An Act for the better preventing of the Crimes of* Fornication *and* Adultery: The Duke mov'd that the Title might be, *An Act for the better concealing the* Crimes *of* Fornication *and* Adultery.

Country-m. So I think your Caution in this way, will be a Caution to the *Rogues* to have a Care; they'll have a Care of being diſcover'd, not of being *Rogues*.

Obſ. Well, let them have as much Care as they can, for *Good Will* or *Ill Will*, their *Roguery* will come out: Have you any more Letters for me?

Country-m. Letters! Ay a Hat-full; I won't let you ſee them till after Supper, for I am a Hungry, and I know you'll neither Eat nor Drink till you have done.

Obſ. Prithee *Country-man*, don't ſpoil my Stomach; I can't go to Supper till I have ſeen 'em.

Country-m. Well, ſome, and ſome, than Read that for a Whet.

Mr. *Obſervator*,

ON the 9th *Inſtant, in the Morning, a Hoy of the Queens Stores, was taken out of* Margate *Road, by a* French *Boat, about* 8 *or* 9 *Hands, and* 6 *Oars; and ſo well Guarded are our Coaſts, that its a Wonder they do not come and Plunder all our Houſes; ſome Honeſt People would have gone off and recovered her, but the Cuſtom Officers would neither give them Commiſſion, nor furniſh them with Ammunition; nor indeed was there enough on* Broad-Stairs *before which Village ſhe lay ſome Hours, to Diſcharge one Gun. Yours,*

A. B.

Obſ. Fine Work, indeed! All our Coaſt, and within the Mouth of the River too, not able to Reſcue a Hoy of the Queens Proviſions, from a Six Oar Boat, and not one great Gun!

Country-m. That's *Ill-Natur'd*, you ſee the People would have gone off and Reſcued her, but the Officers

Officers whoſe proper Buſineſs it was, would not ſpare them *Ammunition*, nor give them a *Power*.

Obſ. Proper Buſineſs! I believe you don't know the proper Buſineſs of a *Cuſtom-Houſe* Officer.

Country-m. I thought 'twas the proper Buſineſs of all the Queens Officers to ſave the Queens Goods.

Obſ. No, ſome *Steal the Queens Goods*; I warrant you, if the Honeſt *Margate*-Men had gone out and Fought the *French* ſmall Boat, and Taken it; and there had happen'd to have been but a Gallon of *Brandy* on Board, as ſoon as they had come aſhore, they wou'd have taken it away from them.

Country-m. They ſhou'd have been Hang'd for it if they had, and the D——l wou'd have ſoon had them.

Obſ. O let the Devil and them alone to agree about that; they would have ventur'd it, they'd have made ſure of the Liquor.

Country-m. Why then, is there any *Rogues* belong to the *Cuſtom-Houſe* too! 'Tis to be fear'd there is.

Obſ. How do you think it is poſſible that the *French* Coaſt is ſo full of our Wooll? And our Coaſt ſo full of their Brandy, if there was not a Truce between the Tradeſmen and the Officer? And how do you think that's to be brought to paſs, but by *Bribery*, *Villany*, and *Thieving* on both ſides? *But of this by the way*; *I ſhall have a Time to Treat of them by themſelves.*

Country m. Nay, then I ſee this is a long piece of Work indeed, what *Knaves* every where? The Lord have Mercy upon my *Queen*, that ſhe ſhould have ſuch a Gang of *Knaves* in her Service, pray, Maſter *Obſervator*, what Religion are theſe Officers of?

Obſ. Religion! Prithee *Country-man*, what Religion's a *Pick-Pocket of*? I leave the Enquiry to the *Ordinary of Newgate*, it's Time enough to aſk a Thief his Religion *at the Gallows.*

Country-m. Well, but what Religion do they call themſelves of?

Obſ. Churchmen, all *Churchmen*, Honeſt *Country-man*; True Blew *Proteſtants* of the Church of *England.*

Country-m. Well, but are there no *Diſſenters* among them.

Obſ. No, there can be no Body in Office but what muſt take the *Sacrament* in the Church of *England.*

Country-m. Well, but was there no *Diſſenters* in formerly?

Obſ. Yes, a few.

Country-m. And were they any Honeſter than theſe are?

Obſ. Truly, Honeſt *Country-man*, I cant't ſay that; Officers of all Religions may be *Knaves*, for ought I know; I won't ſay there are no *Knaves* in the Crowd among the *Diſſenters*; but the Body of all the Officers, in all Places of the Kingdom, have been always Churchmen; but why do you aſk it?

Country-m. Why, becauſe I would know if theſe are put out, where we ſhould get better.

Obſ. Prithee don't trouble thy Head about that; thou and I ſhall never Live to ſee the Time when theſe will be out.

Country-m. Well, but my Son *George* may, and I ſhall Dye in the Hopes of it.

Obſ. Why look you, *Country man*, I am no more for Diſſenting *Knaves*, than for Church *Knaves*; as the Churchmen Engroſs the Offices, let them but Diſcharge them Honeſtly, and I have the leſs to ſay; let them detect Diſſenters *Knaves*, and Honeſt Men in their Room, and we are well enough pleas'd; but to turn our *Knaves* out, and put ſuch as are Ten Times worſe of their own; is like Sir *Roger L' Strange*'s Flounder, Out of *Frying-Pan into the Fire.* To put out a *Lyar*, put in a *Thief*; put out a *Fool*, and put in a *Knave*; this is the Devil.

Country-m. Where muſt all the Honeſt Men be found?

Obſ. Honeſt *Country-man*, we are not now upon the Point who ſhall be the Men, nor is it our Buſineſs; let them find them out, I am not ſo *Unchristable*, but I believe there are *Honeſt Men enough among themſelves*, *Honeſt*, *Unbyaſt*, *Unbrib'd* Men enough in the Church *of England*; and they ſhan't have it to ſay of me, I Write to get the Diſſenters into Offices; Honeſt Men will Cure all theſe Diſtempers of what Perſuaſion ſoever; let them look for them among themſelves and Welcome.

Country-m. But what if they can't find them among them?

Obſ. That is not to be ſuppos'd.

Country-m. What do you think of putting Perſons into the Places? Our *Doctor* is a very Honeſt Fellow, and loves his Bottle.

Obſ. Ay, now you have mended the matter indeed!

Country-m. Why, if they ben't Honeſt Men, I don't know where we ſhall find them.

Obſ. But 'tis out of their Calling, 'tis Remote from their Buſineſs, 'tis Falſe Heraldry; 'tis making the *Phariſee* turn *Publican.*

Country-m. Well, you never like my Projects, ſpeak according to my Judgment, you are crying out for Honeſt Churchmen, and I thought they wan't Honeſt Churchmen, there was none to be found any where.

Obſ. Ay, they may be Honeſt Churchmen, and that's their Province, and I wiſh they were Honeſter then they are; which Chriſtian Wiſh I hope they won't take amiſs from me.

Country-m. What de'ye mean by that? Why you won't pretend upon them too, will you? Is there any *Knaves* among them?

Obſ. No, no, none to ſpeak on; and if there was, they tell of it loud enough themſelves, I need not meddle with it.

Country-m. How tell of it?

Obſ. How! Go aſk Doctor *Kennet*; go aſk the upper Houſe of *Con---ion.* There you may hear them at the Old Trade of *Billingſgate*, *Thou Rogue, and thou Rogue:* We have had it in Print till all the Town's tyr'd on it.

Country-m. Well, you are a ſtrange Man, I thought all our Men of God had been after his own Heart, had been all like our Doctor.

Obſ. Hows that? What love their Bottle?

Country-m. Why what then? That's but by the by; he's an Honeſt Good Man for all that; and 'tis but very ſeldom he takes a Cup too much; you ſhan't ſee him Diſguis'd that way, not once a Month, nor indeed hardly ever, but when he gets to our Juſtices; and that's ſuch a Man there's no doing with him without a Skin-full.

Obſ. A pretty Buſineſs, truly! There's your *Magiſtrate* and your *Parſon*, your *Spiritual Guide*, and your *Temporal Guide*, both Drunk together; you have given a fine Character of your Honeſt Man, han't you?

Country-m. Lord help us, why if a Man takes a Cup of *October Beer*, muſt he be ſuch a Man with you? Then I don't know what to ſay to you.——

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